

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-5 and 15 were rejected and claims 6-14 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 6 and 10-14 were amended, and claims 1-5 were cancelled. Accordingly, claims 6-14 are at issue.

I. Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagao (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,992). Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagao (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,992). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 15 were cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

II. Objection To Claims


Claims 6-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 6 and 10-14 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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